

ENERGY STREAMLINING TASK FORCE PROJECT SUMMARY

Name: 765 kV Transmission Reinforcement Project (Virginia, West Virginia)

ET-2

Entity proposing project: American Electric Power (Appalachian Power Company)

Category of project: Electricity Transmission

Brief description of project: Currently is intended to connect AEP's Wyoming Station (Oceana, WV) to Jacksons Ferry Station (Wythe County, VA) – 89.8 miles [originally to extend to Cloverdale Station near Roanoke, VA]

Agencies that must be consulted and agencies from which approval is needed:

Federal: United States Forest Service – lead agency (conducting EIS); issues Special Use Permit to cross Jefferson National Forest & Appalachian Trail
Army Corps of Engineers – issues permit under Section 10 of Rivers & Harbors Act to cross New River
United States Fish & Wildlife Service – required for consultation process under Section 7 of ESA; possibly need permit under Section 10 of ESA for incidental take
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation – required for consultation process under Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act

State: Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) & West Virginia Public Service Commission (PSC) – issue certificates of public convenience & necessity (CPCN)

Project Timeline:

AEP files application with USFS for Special Use Permit – March 5, 1991
AEP files application for CPCN with SCC – August 15, 1991
USFS publishes notice of intent to prepare EIS – November 13, 1991
AEP files application for CPCN with PSC – June 22, 1992 (withdrawn in August at request of PSC awaiting federal EIS)
Portion of New River designated by Congress for study under Wild & Scenic Rivers Act – October 26, 1992
AEP re-files CPCN application with PSC along route avoiding New River Wild & Scenic study area – February 11, 1993
PSC dismisses AEP's re-filed application awaiting EIS completion – May 10, 1993
National Park Service (NPS) determines New River study area is eligible for Scenic River classification – July 1994
AEP meets with Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, USFS, NPS, ACOE re: compliance under National Historic Preservation Act (no consensus) – October 6, 1994
SCC issues Interim Order citing compelling need but asking for additional information on alternative routes and regional improvements – December 13, 1995
NPS recommends denial of any project crossing New River – May 8, 1996
USFS releases Draft EIS containing preferred alternative of “no build” – June 18, 1996

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AEP files new applications with PSC & SCC to construct along modified route avoiding New River Study area – September 30, 1997

PSC approves construction in West Virginia – May 27, 1998

SCC directs AEP to conduct detailed need and environmental studies of alternative route terminating at Jacksons Ferry Station – September 22, 1998

AEP files report on alternative route – May 7, 1999

SCC Hearing Examiner's Report recommends approval of alternative route – October 2, 2000

AEP requests PSC amend Order to reflect termination of route at Jacksons Ferry – October 27, 2000

AEP meets with USFS and F&WS re: ESA compliance (no consensus) – April 19, 2001

SCC issues final Order approving construction – May 31, 2001

AEP files supplemental application for Special Use Permit with USFS – August 6, 2001 (USFS publishes revised Notice of Intent to prepare a Supplemental Draft EIS)

Issuance of Supplemental Draft EIS expected – April 2002

Issuance of Final EIS expected – December 2002

Final Decisions expected to be made by – April 15, 2003

Reason for bringing project to the task force's attention: Since 1990, AEP has spent over \$38 million to obtain permits for this project. Rolling blackouts are occurring in the region and agencies have acknowledged need for service. Electricity demand in this areas has increased by more than 140 percent since the last major reinforcement in 1973.